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**AFGHANISTAN**

Date: June 2011

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# FACT SHEET

## Health Care Improvement Project (HCI)

### OVERVIEW

HCI has been working with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the private sector to improve the quality of health services in Afghanistan, helping develop capacity and infrastructure for improvement at the national and provincial levels.

HCI works with public and private health facilities and community health workers to upgrade maternal and newborn care in Kabul, Balkh, Kunduz, Bamyan, Parwan, and Hirat, and is expanding to six new provinces: Samangan, Sari Pul, Wardak, Logar, Kapisa, and Panjshir. Facilities under HCI's coverage provide health services to more than five million Afghans, about 20 percent of the total population.

HCI has adapted the quality improvement (QI) methodology developed by the Institute of Health Care Improvement in the United States. QI is defined as the application of specific improvement methods and tools to achieve desired results and outcomes by understanding and addressing system deficiencies and strengths through testing change ideas and using data to demonstrate their efficacy prior to scale-up or, in some cases, by re-designing healthcare processes. Under HCI's collaborative improvement methodology, after implementing changes in their facilities, participating teams from different sites are brought together in workshops called learning sessions, to share their experiences and learn from each other and from QI experts. These change cycles facilitate rapid expansion of best practices across participating health facilities and their communities.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- **Provincial health facility maternal and newborn collaborative:** Work with Basic Package of Health Services health facilities in five provinces to improve the quality of high impact maternal and newborn interventions in antenatal care (ANC), delivery, and post partum care
- **Provincial community maternal and newborn collaborative:** Work with community health workers and community health supervisors in five provinces to improve the quality and delivery of specific high impact maternal and newborn interventions
- **Kabul maternity hospital maternal and newborn collaborative:** Work with three public and three private maternity hospitals to improve the quality of high impact maternal and newborn care interventions
- **Research and evaluation:** Analysis of cost effectiveness; community QI operations research; and a study on identifying effective spread strategies

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Supported the MoPH in establishing a dedicated unit to coordinate QI programs
- Supported the MoPH in developing the National Strategy for Improving Quality of Health Care
- Conducted several learning sessions and trained more than 300 front-line providers on essential quality improvement tools
- Trained 40 national trainers on neonatal resuscitation and the Helping Babies Breathe initiative
- Made significant improvement in quality of care in the three collaboratives, in areas such as hand washing, partograph use, quality ANC and PNC counseling and compliance with active management of the third stage of labor (AMTSL) and essential newborn care (ENC) standards
- Trained senior management of MoPH, hospitals, implementing Non Governmental Organizations and more than 200 new medical school graduates on quality improvement methodologies